

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SS-15 L-03 CPR-02 M-03 A-01 SY-07

NSC-10 RSR-01 RSC-01 /069 W
----- 053038

R 121516 Z APR 73
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7941

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MOSCOW 4059

E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OGEN, PFOR, UR, US
SUBJECT: RECREATIONAL BOATING

REF: MOSCOW 4014 (LEN-431)

1. SUMMARY AND ACTION. REFTEL STIPULATIONS ON BOATING PRIVILEGES IN LENINGRAD ARE MUCH LESS THAN THE PROVERBIAL " HALF- LOAF" BUT NEVERTHELESS WELCOME, IN THAT THEY PLACE SOVIETS ON RECORD AS PERMITTING BOATING IN PRINCIPLE. PENDING EMBASSY' S RECEIPT OF ACGD' S POUCH COMMENTS ON REFTEL, EMBASSY OFFERS FOLLOWING APPRAISAL OF REFTEL STIPULATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR RECIPROCAL US ACTION.

2. AS WE CONSTRUE THEM, STIPULATIONS:

A. PERMIT USE OF BOATS ONLY WITHIN AN AREA OF ROUGHLY 90 SQUARE KILOMETERS (OR ABOUT 35 SQUARE MILES) IN THE BAY OF FINLAND, NORTH OF AND EXCLUDING WATERS WITHIN LENINGRAD PROPER. DISTANCE BETWEEN THE TWO LIMITING POINTS OF SESTRORETSK, ON THE SOUTH, AND SEROVO, ON THE NORTH, IS SHOWN TO BE ABOUT 30 KILOMETERS ON EMBASSY' S MAPS. (SEROVO ITSELF IS NOT SHOWN ON MAPS BUT ITS POSITION HAS BEEN APPROXIMATED AS NEAR USHKOVO STATION ON THE LENINGRAD- VYBORG RAILWAY). BOAT OPERATION ZAWERMITTED BETWEEN THESE TWO POINTS UP TO A MAXIMUM OF 3 KILOMETERS (1.87 MILES) OFFSHORE.

B. LIMIT BOATS TO NO MORE THAN 12 HP (OUTBOARD) MOTORS AND THEIR OPERATION TO " DAYLIGHT HOURS" ONLY.

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C. DO NOT LIMIT THE NUMBER OF BOATS WHICH CAN BE USED UNDER THESE CONDITIONS NOR PROHIBIT SAILBOATS.

3. MOST SERIOUS DISADVANTAGE OF THESE RESTRICTIONS IS THEIR PROHIBITION AGAINST USING THE BOATS ON THE NUMEROUS AND SCENIC CANALS AND WATERWAYS WITHIN LENINGRAD PROPER. FURTHERMORE, THE AREA OPENED TO BOATING WOULD BE RATHER CONFINING FOR SAILBOATS. THE " DAYLIGHT HOURS" STIPULATION IMPOSES NO REAL INCONVENIENCE BUT REQUIRES DEFINITION OF THE TERM TO AVOID DISAGREEMENTS. (WE WOULD PROPOSE ONE HOUR TO EITHER SIDE OF OFFICIAL SUNRISE AND SUNSET TIMES.)

4. THESE DISADVANTAGES NOTWITHSTANDING, THE DIPLOMATIC AGENCY'S RESPONSE IS ESSENTIALLY POSITIVE AND CAN BE THE BASIS FOR POSSIBLE EXPANSION OF BOATING RIGHTS AT A LATER DATE. FOR THIS REASON, WE WOULD FAVOR THE DEPARTMENT'S EXTENDING RECIPROCITY TO THE SOVIETS AT PIONEER POINT. WE DO NOT THINK IT NECESSARY TO DUPLICATE THE RESTRICTION ON MOTOR SIZE AT THIS TIME BUT DO BELIEVE IT APPROPRIATE THAT THE AREA OPENED TO THE SOVIETS NEAR PIONEER POINT NOT EXCEED THAT ALLOWED IN LENINGRAD. IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE AS WELL TO APPLY AT PIONEER POINT THE SAME " DAYLIGHT HOURS" RESTRICTION.

5. BECAUSE WE ARE SIMULTANEOUSLY SEEKING BOATING RIGHTS IN LENINGRAD AND MOSCOW, WHILE THE SOVIETS ARE CONCERNED ONLY WITH PIONEER POINT, CONCESSIONS THEY MAKE TO US IN BOTH AREAS SHOULD BE RECIPROCATED IN PRIVILEGES GRANTED THEM NEAR PIONEER POINT. TO RETAIN OUR " CARROT" FOR MOVEMENT ON THE MOSCOW HALF OF THE QUESTION, IT MIGHT BE WELL TO INDICATE TO SOVEMB, WASHINGTON THAT WE ARE PREPARED TO EXPAND THEIR PRIVILEGES AT PIONEER POINT WHEN WE LEARN THE STIPULATIONS WHICH WILL BE APPLIED TO BOATING IN THE MOSCOW AREA.

DUBS

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973MOSCOW04059
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730441/aaaaijhj.tel
Line Count: 103
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 MOSCOW 4014 (LEN-431)
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26-Sep-2001 by smithrj>; APPROVED <29-Nov-2001 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 980105
Subject: RECREATIONAL BOATING
TAGS: OGEN, PFOR, UR, US
To: EUR
SECSTATE WASHDC
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005